We claim:

1. A method to isolate *d-threo*-methylphenidate in greater than 99 percent enantiomeric excess from a mixture of *d-threo*-methylphenidate and *l-threo*-methylphenidate, comprising the steps of:

providing a mixture comprising *d-threo*-methylphenidate and *l-threo*-methylphenidate;

supplying *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

treating said mixture with said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

collecting *d-threo*-methylphenidate having greater than a 99 percent enantiomeric excess.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said supplying step further comprises the steps of:

providing *l*-fenchyl alcohol;

providing chloroacetic acid;

reacting said *l*-fenchyl alcohol with said chloroacetic acid to form said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said treating step includes the following steps:

reacting said mixture with said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

isolating the salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate; and

cracking said salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said cracking step includes the following steps:

providing a 10 percent solution of sodium bicarbonate in water;

treating the salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate with said aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and ethyl acetate to give a two phase mixture comprising a water fraction and an ethyl acetate fraction;

separating the ethyl acetate fraction from said water fraction; and

treating said ethyl acetate fraction with hydrochloric acid.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining *l-threo*-methylphenidate from said water fraction;

hydrolyzing said *l-threo*-methylphenidate to 1-ritalinic acid;

reacting said 1-ritalinic acid with a methanol solution saturated with hydrogen chloride to form *dl*-methylphenidate.

6. A method to isolate *d-threo*-methylphenidate in greater than 99 percent enantiomeric excess from a racemic mixture of *d-threo*-methylphenidate and *l-threo*-methylphenidate, comprising the steps of:

providing a racemic mixture comprising *d-threo*-methylphenidate and *l-threo*-methylphenidate;

obtaining a second mixture of *d-threo*-methylphenidate and *l-threo*-methylphenidate from said racemic mixture, wherein said second mixture comprises *d-threo*-methylphenidate having greater than a 90 percent enantiomeric excess;

supplying *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

treating said second mixture with said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

collecting *d-threo*-methylphenidate having greater than a 99 percent enantiomeric excess.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said obtaining step includes passing said racemic mixture through a chiral column chromatograph.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said obtaining step includes the steps of:

reacting said racemic mixture with an optically active acid in methanol to give insoluble solids and a methanolic solution;

separating said insoluble solids and said methanolic solution;

adding water to said methanolic solution;

filtering said water / methanol solution to collect said second mixture.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said treating step includes:

reacting said second mixture with said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

isolating the salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate; and

cracking said salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said cracking step includes the following steps:

providing a 10 percent solution of sodium bicarbonate in water;

treating the salt of (1R)-endo-(+)-fenchyloxyacetic acid and *d-threo*-methylphenidate with said aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution and ethyl acetate to give a two phase mixture comprising a water fraction and an ethyl acetate fraction;

separating the ethyl acetate fraction from said water fraction; and

treating said ethyl acetate fraction with hydrochloric acid.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said insoluble solids comprises the adduct of *l*-threo-methylphenidate and said optically active-acid, further comprising the steps of:

forming 1-ritalinic acid from said insoluble solids;

providing a saturated solution of hydrogen chloride in methanol;

esterifying said 1-ritalinic acid using said saturated solution to form said racemic mixture.

12. A method to resolve stereoisomers of an optically active compound comprising an amine moiety, comprising the steps of:

providing a mixture comprising two stereoisomers of a compound comprising a amine moiety;

supplying *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

treating said mixture with said *l*-fenchyloxyacetic acid;

collecting one of said two or more stereoisomers having greater than a 99 percent enantiomeric excess.